

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 AF-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4903

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6632

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS AT NOV 9 LISBON RALLY

REF: LISBON 6544 DTG 051243Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH INTERRUPTED AND FOLLOWED BY DISTURBANCES, PRIME MINISTER ZEVEDO ENUNCIATED HARDENING OF GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARD THE LEFT AND REEMPHASIZED HIS DETERMINATION TO RESTORE ORDER, DISCIPLINE AND TRANQUILITY. GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTIONS LEND WEIGHT BY PRIME MINISTER'S WORDS. END SUMMARY.

1. FLANKED BY SOCIALIST SEC GEN MARIO SOARES AND HIS POPULAR DEMOCRATIC COUNTERPART SA CARNEIRO, PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO CAME DOWN HARD AGAINST "REVOLUTIONARY LEFT" AT NOV 9 LISBON RALLY
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CALLED BY TWO MAJOR PARTIES.

CROWD ESTAMATED BY EMBOFF AT 40 TO 50 THOUSAND
ENTHUSIASTICALLY RESPONDED TO FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

--"VANGUARD" REPUDIATED: FAR LEFT MINORITIES CLAIM TO SPEAK
FOR PEOPLE AND WORERS ARE INVALID. THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS
THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY. POPULAR WILL WAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED
IN ELECTIONS AND RECENT PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN
OPORTO AND FARO. "POPULAR POWER" IS A VALID CONCEPT ONLY WHEN IT
RESTS ON THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY AS EXPRESSED THROUGH ELECTIONS.

---ORDER: LEFT'S PROMOTION OF INDISCIPLINE IN ARMED FORCES,
DISRESPECT FOR THE COURTS AND LAW, AND ILLEGAL PURGES AND
OCCUPATIONS OF PROPERTY IS DESTROYING THE TRANQUILITY AND PEACE OF
THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION AND OPENING THE WAY FOR A RETURN
TO FASCISM. IF THE LEFT CONTINUES SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE GOVERN-
MENT WILL "ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE" AND RESIST THEM. AZEVEDO
EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT "CONSCIENTIOUS REVOLUTIONARIES,"
"RESPONSIBLE MILITARY," AND PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS.

--"ENEMIES" DEFINED: AZEVEDO STRESSED THE NEED FOR REVOLUTION
TO "DEFINE ITS ENEMIES." REACTION AND FASCISM ARE REAL, BUT NOT
ONLY, THREATS. GREATER ONE IS THAT POSED BY "APPARENT REVOLU-
TIONARIES" USING THE DANGER OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION FOR THEIR
OWN ENDS.

-- RADIO RENASCENCA: AZEVEDO ELICITED STRONGEST POSITIVE REPOSE
FROM CROWD WHEN HE DEFENDED NOV 7 SILENCING OF RADIO RENASCENCA.
STATION, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CONTINUING SOURCE OF TENSION WITH
CHURCH, TO WHICH, HE SAID, IT STILL LEGALLY BELONGED. ITS
REOPENING BY LEFTISTS OCT 22 WAS A "PROVOCATION", COMING AS IT
DID ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' MEETING WITH THE POPE.

2. DISTURBANCE: END OF SPEECH WAS MARKED BY DISTURBANCES.
UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENTS HAD BEEN CIRCULATING THROUGH CROWD
SEEKING TO CREATE CONFUSION. MILITARY HELICOPTER MADE SEVERAL
LOW PASSES, DROWNING OUT AZEVEDO AND ANGERING CROWD.
NEAR END OF SPEECH, TWO TEAR GAS CANISTERS WERE DETONATED ON
EDGES OF CROWD, PROVOKING SOME PANIC. AZEVEDO HAD NO SOONER
CALMED CROWD WHEN THIRD EXPLOSION OCCURRED, FOLLOWED
BY LONG BURST OF AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE FROM PANICKY MILITARY
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POLICEMAN COVERING RALLY. BURST PROVOKED GENERAL PANIC
AND ABOUT HALF OF CROWD FLED, BUT AZEVEDO EVENTUALLY
RESTORED CALM AND COMPLETED LAST FEW SENTENCES OF HIS SPEECH.
CROWD, FEELING THAT RADICAL MILITARY POLICE REGIMENT HAD PURPOSELY
INTERRUPTED PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH, TURNED ON MPS (NO MORE
THAN 50-60), WHO, AFTER BRINGING UP REINFORCEMENTS, WERE FORCED
TO WITHDRAW UNDER COVER OF TEAR GAS AND WARNING SHOTS.
NO INJURIES OCCURRED.

3. COMMENT: AZEVEDO SPEECH MARKS A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN HIS PUBLIC POSTURE. THIS WAS CLEARLY A POLITICAL STATEMENT. HE IDENTIFIED THE "REVOLUTIONARY LEFT" AS THE OPPONENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, AND COMMITTED HIMSELF TO COUNTERING THEIR EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE CIVIL ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE. COMING ON THE HEELS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SOLUTION OF THE RADIO RENASCENCA SITUATION AND ITS REFUSAL TO BOW TO LEFTIST PRESSURE TO SACK ITS MINISTER OF LABOR AND MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, AZEVEDO'S STATEMENT MUST BE CONSIDERED MORE THAN JUST WORDS. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ADDRESS HIS REMARK DIRECTLY TO THE COMMUNISTS, HIS MESSAGE TO THEM IS CLEAR; EITHER PLAY BY THE RULES OF THE GAME, OR ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.

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